

MEETING MINUTES

MILPITAS PLANNING COMMISSION Milpitas City Hall, Council Chambers 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Milpitas, CA

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

- I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** **Chair Mandal** called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. ROLL CALL/ SEATING OF ALTERNATE** **Commissioners**
Present: Chair Sudhir Mandal, Vice Chair Larry Ciardella, Commissioners Gurdev Sandhu, Rajeev Madnawat, Demetress Morris, Hon Lien, Ray Maglalang, Alternate Member Zeya Mohsin
Absent: All commissioners present
Staff: Steven McHarris, Johnny Phan, Felix Reliford, Tracy Tam, Adam Petersen
- III. PUBLIC FORUM** **Chair Mandal** invited members of the audience to address the Commission and there was one speaker who spoke about earthquakes and broken water pipes.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** **Chair Mandal** called for approval of the February 11, 2015 meeting minutes of the Planning Commission.
Motion to approve Planning Commission meeting minutes as submitted.
Motion/Second: Commissioner Sandhu/Vice Chair Ciardella
AYES: 7
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
- V. ANNOUNCEMENTS** Planning Director Steven McHarris announced that the Milpitas Vision Plans for California Circle and Main at Serra received the 2015 American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) National Award for outstanding student project that contributes to advances in the field of planning.

Mr. McHarris said staff has been working with St. Elizabeth Church on their Parish Hall project that the Planning Commission approved last year and there was a condition that the applicant review the possible relocation of the trash enclosure. He said staff has been working with the applicant and is having difficulty finding an ideal location and it is staff's recommendation to have the enclosure remain at its present location. He added that the enclosure will be updated with a solid concrete block wall, and the truck operations will cause less noise for the neighbors at this location.

Chair Mandal said that since upper staff reviewed the request and determined this to be the best location, and since there have been no complaints made, he has no objections to leaving the trash enclosure where it is.

Vice Chair Ciardella reminded everyone that next Friday is the Milpitas Chamber of Commerce Crab Feed. He also reported that he received a presentation through the Chamber about a month ago regarding the Serra Center.

Commissioner Madnawat announced that MUSD and Milpitas Community Educational Endowment (MCEE) will hold the third annual Tech Symposium on Saturday, March 14 from 9:00 am to noon at 1285 Escalon Parkway and all are invited to attend.

Commissioner Mohsin announced that on Saturday, February 28th the Milpitas Democratic Club will host a resident forum in the Milpitas Police Community Room from 2:00-4:00 and all are welcome.

VI. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Assistant City Attorney Johnny Phan asked if any member of the Commission had any personal or financial conflict of interest related to any of the items on the agenda.

There were no reported conflicts.

VII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Mandal asked if staff or Commissioners had changes to the agenda. Mr. McHarris requested exchanging Public Hearing item number IX-1 with IX-3 so that the Town Center Amendment item could be heard first.

Motion to approve the February 25, 2015 agenda with requested change.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Madnawat/Commissioner Sandhu

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items

IX. PUBLIC HEARING

IX-3

TOWN CENTER AMENDMENT – ALL TOWN CENTER DESIGNATED PARCELS – GP15-0001; ZA14-0011 and EA15-0001: A General Plan Amendment, Zoning Text Amendment and Environmental Impact Assessment to the Town Center land use designation and zoning district that would prohibit any new residential uses.

Project Planner Adam Petersen provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Sandhu asked why the change is coming now and Mr. Petersen said this is the direction of the City Council. Mr. McHarris provided background information, stating that the last action in the Town Center was to expand the Town Center zoning district south of Calaveras and that action introduced the potential for residential use with no minimum density. This resulted in several single-family residential subdivisions along the south side of Calaveras. Staff reviewed residential uses that would be consistent with the Town Center zone and recommended mixed-use with no ground floor residential to the Planning Commission, whom in turn made the same

recommendation to the City Council. The City Council directed staff to remove residential altogether so the item has returned to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

Vice Chair Ciardella asked if commercial can be located on the bottom floor and office space above and Mr. Petersen said he believes this would be allowed.

Commissioner Madnawat asked about dry cleaning not being permitted in the town center and Mr. McHarris said dry-cleaning businesses are permitted however dry cleaning plants where chemical cleaning is done is not permitted in the Town Center.

Chair Mandal opened the public hearing and there were two speakers.

The owner at 500 E Calaveras believes mixed use should be acceptable but ruling out residential is something the commission should think twice about. He believes it should be kept mixed use.

A gentleman referred to pages 7 of the staff report regarding natural disasters and suggested adding “or man caused disaster” to the text. He also commented that higher buildings in the downtown area can be accomplished if one looks at how other cities have done it.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Sandhu/Vice Chair Ciardella

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-009 recommending the City Council adopt General Plan Amendment No. GP15-0001, Zoning Amendment No. ZA14-0011, and approving Environmental Impact Assessment EA15-0001 to prohibit all new residential uses from the Town Center Zoning District.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Madnawat/Commissioner Morris

AYES: 6

NOES: 1 Lien

IX-2

GENIUS KIDS CUP – 487 & 495 Jacklin Road – UP14-0014: A request for a Conditional Use Permit to operate a daycare and afterschool tutoring facility with a total of 75 children within an existing commercial building.

Project Planner Tracy Tam provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the project.

Chair Mandal asked about the lighting in the play area and Ms. Tam said the applicant has expressed interest in including lighting in that area and Chair Mandal said he feels this is important for the safety of the children. Chair Mandal also asked about the surface of the play area and Ms. Tam said it will be engineered bark which has been compressed to a certain level so that dust is not produced when the children play outdoors.

Vice Chair Ciardella asked about the play equipment and Ms. Tam said that during the review process there was a proposal for play equipment but it is no longer proposed due to staff's concern with the surrounding residential uses. The applicant will be providing

art easels and sand boxes.

Rennu Dhillon, Genius Kids franchise owner, was present to discuss the project. Chair Mandal asked her for clarification on the ground material being used in the play area and she said there are different choices available, including engineered wood chips or rubber mulch, and what is allowed in a public park is different than that allowed in a preschool, but added that they do not have a preference as long as it meets Department of Social Services standards.

Chair Mandal asked Ms. Dhillon about the lighting and she said there are some lights in the back of the building but not enough for the playground, so they are open to adding more lighting and feels using solar powered lights would be a good idea.

Commissioner Mohsin asked what time of play equipment will be included if there are no play structures and Ms. Dhillon said they will have picnic tables and the school is focused on science and plans to have a lot of hands on learning and projects outside, including gardening.

Chair Mandal opened the public hearing and there were no speakers.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Morris/Commissioner Sandhu

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-011 approving Conditional Use Permit No. UP14-0014 to operate a daycare and an afterschool tutoring facility with a total of 75 children within an existing commercial building located at 487 and 495 Jacklin Road, subject to findings and Conditions of Approval, and an amendment to include a condition that the outdoor play area will have rubberized ground material.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Sandhu/Vice Chair Ciardella

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

IX-1

HOUSING ELEMENT, SEISMIC/SAFETY ELEMENT, AND OPEN SPACE/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OF THE GENERAL PLAN – EA14-0007 and GP14-0004: A request for Adoption of a Negative Declaration and a General Plan Amendment Approving the Draft Housing Element 2015-2023, and revisions to the Seismic/Safety Element and Open Space/Environmental Conservation Element of the General Plan.

Principal Planner Felix Reliford provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Madnawat asked about fees for affordable housing and there was discussion about the Nexus study and City Council's decision not to pursue it. Commissioner Madnawat asked how many affordable housing units were provided in Milpitas last year and Mr. Reliford said approximately 65 units. Commissioner Madnawat feels this is an insignificant amount of housing and the City is not creating fees to provide affordable housing which is contradictory to what state law requires. Mr. Reliford said staff is researching incentives, such as density bonuses.

Commissioner Maglalang referenced page six of the Draft Housing Element which states that the City did not meet its RHNA goals for very low to low moderate income households and asked the reason for this. Mr. Reliford said that no city meets 100% of their RHNA number and most cities seldom meet 50%.

Chair Mandal opened the public hearing and there were no speakers.

Motion to close the public hearing.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Sandhu/Vice Chair Ciardella

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

Commissioner Morris suggests revisiting the subject of a Nexus study and returning to the City Council.

Commissioner Madnawat feels the City has not achieved any of its affordable housing targets and has only provided 2% affordable housing. He believes the City is required to have some policies to try to achieve these goals and he does not see any policies to support this.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 15-0008 recommending the City Council adopt a Negative Declaration (Environmental Assessment No. EA14-0007) and approve General Plan Amendment No. GP14-0004 relating to the Draft Housing Element 2015-2023 and revisions to the Seismic/Safety Element and Open Space/Environmental Conservation Element of the General Plan with an amendment to return to City Council with a recommendation for a Nexus study for affordable housing and setting aside funding for affordable housing.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Madnawat/Commissioner Morris

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

X. NEW BUSINESS

X-1 SERRA CENTER STUDY SESSION

Senior Planner Adam Petersen said the study session would consist of two purposes, a review of City policies and zoning designation for the Serra Center, and a discussion on future development potential of the center, and showed a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the Serra Center.

Chair Mandal feels this is the main entrance into Milpitas and the center currently gives him the wrong impression about the city, and he said this is an opportunity to have an area that is an icon of the city. He asked how much input the Economic Development Commission (EDC) has had on the project thus far.

Mr. McHarris said the EDC has not been agendized as this is the first City commission review of this center. Chair Mandal feels it is important that the EDC review the development of this center and that input is received from them.

Commissioner Maglalang said he prefers one straight building similar to Santana Row with underground parking.

Commissioner Madnawat commented that the Cal Poly students had great plans in their study and he would like to see them incorporated into this project.

Gary Wong said the Serra Center was previously presented to the Planning Commission and City Council but it did not go far due to the recession; however, it is being brought back to reality with his team and the Serra way partners. He said in the past they were given the concept that mixed use was allowed, then they were sidetracked because residential was not allowed in the new General Plan policy, and the design plans they are showing are based on mixed use, which they want to introduce into this project.

Mr. Wong showed a PowerPoint of the proposed project and reviewed their future plans for the site.

Commissioner Madnawat asked about the timeline of the project. Mr. Wong said there are a number of leases that do not end for some time so they are proposing starting development on the east side working toward the west when those leases expire. He said they hope to break ground some time next year and that development will happen in four phases.

The latter part of their presentation was to receive input from the commissioners and below is a summary of comments received from the Planning Commission:

- Take item to Economic Development Commission
- Enhance Economic Support of City
- Obtain ideas from an economic team
- Do not underestimate Milpitas
- Look at Fremont Pacific Commons Center as example
- Provide staff with experience in similar past project examples
- Incorporate Cal Poly vision study
- Work with Cal Poly to further the concept
- Santana Row style activity
- Revisit Floor Area Ratio
- Gateway to the City
- Residential will be above commercial (no ground floor residential)
- Iconic appearance needed
- Affordable commercial and residential rents
- Serra Center theme, historic.
- Look at Alviso Park for history
- Attractive, enjoyable spaces and experience
- Incorporate alternative energy solutions
- Beautify and orient toward adjacent creek channel
- Emphasize pedestrian design
- Design for convertible internal street(s) (can be closed for festivals, events)
- Not in favor of residential along Junipero
- Consider moving parking structure closer to Junipero, no residential
- Work on Serra/Calaveras “pork chop” for gateway design

Serra Center owner Sam Ying thanked the commission for their time and said their goal is to build a place where families can spend time and a center that Milpitas will be proud of.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 PM to the next meeting scheduled on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

Motion to adjourn to the next meeting.

Motion/Second: Commissioner Madnawat/Commissioner Sandhu

AYES: 7

NOES: 0

*Meeting Minutes submitted by
Planning Secretary Elia Escobar*